



The Beeter Bulletin



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Excelling Under Pressure

By Ryley Hofeldt

Chinook Junior High sent ten students to Glasgow for the Academic Olympics on April 10. Several of these students came home with prizes and placings.

Montana divided competition into various classes. In the Class I region, 72 students total participated from Sidney, Malta, Plentywood, Glasgow, Fairview, Wolf Point, Glendive, and Chinook.

Chinook distributed their group into two teams. Team #1 was comprised of Charley Nissen, January Jensen, Laura Danley, Quin Billmeyer, and Cassidy Darlington. Serving on Team #2 were Sam Sanders, Bryce Elliot, Cynnloch Gibson, Sydney Bowles,



Abby Danley, Bryce Elliot, Samson Sanders, Cynnloch Gibson, and Sydney Bowles raise their trophy high after winning at the Academic Olympics.

and Abby Danley. Both teams did rather well, with Team #2 placing first in oral rounds and second in the written test. The first team also placed fourth in the written test.

Placing second in science, third in social studies and seventh in English, Sanders placed in the top ten in nearly every category except math. Sanders liked the science competition the most and will remember his team “winning the verbal competition.” Even though it was his first year, he does hope to attend the high school Academic Olympics next year.

Bowles, also in her first year, favored science over the other competitions. Similar to Sanders, she placed in all competitions but missed out on social studies. Leaving with second place in both English and science and a fifth place in math, Bowles hopes to continue in high school and described the competition as fun.

In addition to Gibson and Sanders’ placing second and third in the social studies competition, Elliot placed fourth. Within the English competition; Gibson, Bowles, and Sanders all placed in the top ten. Gibson and Bowles placed second and fifth in the math competition. Sanders, Bowles, Gibson, Nissen and Danley also had top ten places in science, with Sanders and Bowles both earning second.

Placing high in all four competitions earned Gibson the highest cumulative score in the written exam out of all 72 students.

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Laura Danley, Abby Danley, Quin Billmeyer, Cassidy Darlington, Bryce Elliot, Sam Sanders, Sydney Bowles, Cynnloch Gibson, Mrs. Stella Llante (Team Advisor), January Jensen, and Charley Nissen celebrate their various wins after the Academic Olympics in Glasgow on April 10.

Dancing through the Night

By Ryley Hofeldt

Happy with the results of her team, Mrs. Llante proudly stated: “Witnessing our students winning most of the awards was an incredibly proud moment. I wish to congratulate the students on their outstanding achievement and commend them for their hard work, dedication, and perseverance throughout our preparation.”

Looking at the future for her students, Mrs. Llante adds that she would encourage the students to use this achievement as motivation to continue striving for excellence in their academic pursuits and to serve as role models for their peers.

She also thanked the teachers, saying: “I want to commend the remarkable efforts of the Chinook teachers for their outstanding dedication and commitment to teaching. It is through their exemplary guidance and support that we have such exceptionally bright and talented students.”

After a grueling Friday spent decorating, the Junior Class of 2025 hosted a Pandora themed prom on Saturday, March 23 in Chinook High School’s Floyd Bowen Gymnasium. Couples and singles filed in for pictures about 5:30 p.m. and walked the Grand March at 6:30. A prime rib dinner was provided by Dustin and Vicki Hofeldt, and chaperones were Nick Turner, Shay Waldbillig, Dan Skoyen, and Tim Malsam.

Setting up prom is an all-day ordeal. After returning from Washington, DC, getting a night’s rest, then starting Friday morning to decorate for ten hours proved challenging for the juniors. About the process, Decorating Committee Member Brianna Boettcher stated: “Planning and putting prom together was chaotic. Not many people helped with setting up. It was not everything we hoped for, but it could have been worse.”

Grace Buck agreed with Boettcher in the fact that “the turn out could have been

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better, but overall, prom was not disappointing.”

A freshman, Kolton DePriest felt that his first prom was “pretty good,” and he will “definitely attend next year.”

Looking forward to Prom 2025, the sophomores get to put their creativity to the test in planning the event.

RIGHT: Prom Queen Sami Malsam and Prom King Oliver Standiford preside over the evening’s festivities. BELOW: 2024 Prom took on a cowboy hat theme. Rangler Skoyen, Griffen Crowley, Ayden Alisch, Ross Valdez, Jacob Metcalf, Ben Hofeldt, Kohen Sullivan, Kenneth Gruszie, Fletcher Anderson, Riley Jorgensen, Wylee Simenson, Tyger Parsons (Shelby), and Westen Paulsen all model their western gear.



BOTTOM LEFT: Candidates for Prom Queen: Madilyn Gruszie, Ashlyn Jensen, Hannah Schoen, and Rilee Molyneaux congratulate Sami Malsam upon being selected as Prom Queen.

RIGHT: Jacob Metcalf and Madi Gruszie rode to Prom in a red Peterbilt.



Tearing up the Dance Floor

By Falyn Ceclre

As many schools bounded into Easter break, Chinook’s Junior High was getting ready for their spring dance. Beginning in the school’s multipurpose room/cafeteria at 7:00 p.m., the dance attracted about 40 seventh and eighth graders.

To get in, each student paid three dollars. Domino’s Pizza was also available for purchase by anyone interested, with each slice costing two dollars.

The attire worn consisted of mostly casual outfits, but surprising many, several boys showed up in themed Hawaiian shirts. With the dance starting off a “little slow,” country music seemed to brighten the mood, bringing event-goers to the dance floor. As the students “partied the night away and lost track of time,” the event lasted roughly two hours, finishing up at just past 9:00 p.m.

As a result, “The last song turned into last two songs,” stated Zoe Scofield.

Yearbook Team Works to Capture Memories

By RJ Engstrom

The 2023-24 yearbook is a collection of the moments shared by all high school students. The yearbook is also used to reflect on the many experiences that students have during the year throughout sports, clubs, and other events. At a pre-order cost of \$25 and available after publishing for \$35, the yearbook staff can maintain this reduced price even after the \$52 order cost because of the help of local businesses that sponsor the program to make the books more affordable for students.

Order forms will be mailed out to parents before April 31.

The yearbook squad is comprised of three roles and five students: Manager Nathan Small, Editors Zeke Sanders and Wyatt Matteson, and Art Editors Oliver Standiford and Kylee Green. Directing the team is Mrs. Molyneaux who has been running the yearbook program since the 2005-06 school year. When discussing her experiences advising the program, she explains that she derives her enjoyment from a different and more work-based environment.

Mrs. Molyneaux added that it is a yearly struggle to find students willing to take on the yearbook. However, Editor Sanders is ready to get creative. “The multitasking and creativity of constructing pages is something you can’t really experience from any other class,” stated Sanders.

Sanders is also looking forward to the student body’s reaction to the theme they have selected and seeing the translation from his work on screen to paper. Sanders states that the theme, Spotify/Music Streamer, was selected through a process of elimination where all the members “threw out ideas, then took it to a vote.”

Although facing makeup work due to some members’ absences, the team is hard at work putting finishing touches on the yearbook.

Shredding Down the Powdered Slopes at Showdown

By Bailey Billmeyer

On Wednesday, March 27, a group of 36 high schoolers traveled to Showdown Ski Hill near Great Falls for the high school ski trip.

“The ski trip was fun! Great weather, good snow conditions for late March, and a lovely group of 36 skiers,” reported Student

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Council Advisor and Ski Trip Chaperone Mrs. Fay Friede.

Additional chaperones included Mr. Nick Turner, Michelene Edwards, Ms. Shay Waldbillig, and Colt Scovel. The bus driver was Josh Nordboe.

In order to maximize their time on the slopes, the skiers, snowboarders, and chaperones left the school at about 4:45 a.m. Upon arriving in Great Falls, the group stopped at McDonald's for a breakfast break.

After breakfast, the group made their way to the ski hill. With a fresh skiff of snow powdering the ground, the skiers and snowboarders gathered into their desired lesson classes, which were defined by skill level. Lessons lasted for approximately two hours. After lunch, the attendees went off on their own adventures on the mountain.

With a free afternoon, the bunch experienced quite a long day in the snow. Leaving the ski hill, all of the snow burnt faces loaded back onto the bus.

In Great Falls, the crew stopped at Fuddruckers for dinner. Burgers, french fries, and milkshakes filled almost every stomach. After everyone was fed, they boarded the bus once again for the long trek home.

Hunting for a Good Time!

By Falyn Ceclre

Each year since 2014, the JUMP (Jesus Uses Motivated People) organization, whose main goal is to provide a space where diverse young people can find comfort as well as experience a sense of belonging, has held Easter egg hunts, adding something "fun for the kids of the community."

The Annual JUMP Easter Egg Hunt was held on March 29 at Chinook's Meadowlark Elementary School. Approximately 10-15 JUMP members assisted in organizing and

encouraging the children, whose ages ranged from preschool to sixth grade.

All the egg hunters took home snack bags prepared by the Alliance Church ladies.

"The event went smoothly. We had fewer kids than some years, but they all went home happy," explains Youth Group Advisor/Founder Chrissy Downs.

Up next for the JUMP organization is a big fundraiser for the group. With the Ultimate Salad and Dessert Bar event, families bring salads and desserts, offering a huge free-will lunch for the community.

The JUMP team organizes these community services and fundraisers to earn enough money to go on their yearly mission trip. For these missions, they choose a place to go and help that community in any way they can. Previous trips have taken the group to places like Washington, Wisconsin, and even Hawaii.

Achieving what they have, JUMP has made an impact in this town.



Meadowlark Travels Around the Hi-Line

By Bailey Billmayer

For their annual field trips, most classes at Meadowlark Elementary School will travel to different parts of the Hi-Line. With a few trips already arranged, the school has a busy May ahead.

Ms. Stacey Hasler, Kindergarten Teacher, has already designed a trip for her students. "We take a field trip to Beaver Creek Park. Prior to our trip, we will study beavers. We will then touch on sun and fire safety, wild animal safety, and water safety. We will learn about hiking up and

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down hills. The park ranger usually comes and talks about a little bit of park history and how to take care of the park. He also brings animal pelts and skulls and informs the kids about different animals that live in the park. We will spend the day exploring and enjoying nature!”

The fifth graders, taught by Mrs. Lesa MacLeod, will be touring Havre Beneath the Streets. “On the trip, the students will continue their study of United States History by learning local history and viewing primary sources,” MacLeod said.

With a busy schedule for the month of May, the elementary teachers prepare for the home-stretch of the school year, keeping their students occupied with fun learning activities.



IN THE SPOT LIGHT

A Mentor of Many

By RJ Engstrom

From the office, classroom, or football field, Mr. Matt Molyneaux has been working in Chinook School District since 2002 when he started as an art teacher. Only two years later, he was offered the job as principal of Chinook’s Junior and Senior High School.

As principal, Mr. Molyneaux spent every day leading by his actions in a positive manner. He hopes people remember him as an “individual who came to work daily, was a hard worker, and dedicated to making our school a better place for staff, students, and community.”

With his motto “Coach em’ up, not tear em’ down,” Mr. Molyneaux has coached football for over 35 years, 20 of them as a head and assistant coach. Also assisting in volleyball, track, boys’ basketball, girls’ basketball, and golf over the years, he has been active within our school and a vital member of the Sugarbeeter coaching staff.

Out of his many experiences as a coach, Mr. Molyneaux best recalls winning the 2010 championship game with his two sons as vital components to the success of the team. He has also helped plow snow off the field for playoff-games, and in the 2005-06 season, the Sugarbeeters’ first in eight-man football, he coached a comeback of three touchdowns with two minutes remaining to later win the game in triple overtime.



Mr. Molyneaux summed up his coaching career by expressing his pleasure in “being able to give back to coaches and players in a positive manner throughout the years, especially these last years.” He thanks both Mr. Jay Eslick, the former superintendent, and the school board for “the opportunity to serve the students of the community and to work alongside the many wonderful staff through the years.”

Harlee Lewis

By Ryley Hofeldt

Joining the graduating Class of 2036, Harlee Lewis attends Meadowlark Elementary School's kindergarten class. She



came up from Hays, Montana, with her three brothers: Lane, Jaden, and Nakoda.

During school, she enjoys the art room and states, "I like art."

Coinciding with her artistic mind,

the one thing she wants in the world is "a unicorn."

Harlee's teacher, Ms. Stacey Hasler agrees that Harlee is not only "a great artist and very creative" but adds that "she is both hardworking and helpful."

Harlee's favorite joke is: "When does a monkey get his tail back? Friday."

Pushing through the last of the year until summer, Harlee enjoys her time in kindergarten.

Cohen Bridle

By Bailey Billmeyer

Cohen Bridle, a new student in Ms. Bridgette Brennan's first grade class, is an active member in the classroom, even when it gets difficult.

"Cohen tries to do his best in school, even though it can be challenging for him at times," says Brennan.

The new kindergarten student describes his superpower, if he could have one: "I would sling webs because it reminds me of the Spiderman movie, and I am one of his fans. I really like Spiderman."

When he grows up, Cohen wants to be a cop "because cops help people," Cohen explains.

Suggesting that he is a big fan of food, Cohen states, "If I could make any new rule for school, everyone would get two lunches a day!"

When naming something he could never live without, Cohen replied: "I could never live without my brothers. I love them."

His teacher Ms. Brennan summarizes Cohen's character in these words: "If he cares about you, he is super nice to you and will always stick up for you!"



Following New Opportunities

By Falyn Cecrle

Along with many others looking for new opportunities, Brianna Zumbrun has embarked upon a journey that will take her to the next stage of her life. After working with the Chinook School District for the past two years, she has decided to pursue a position as a Payroll Clerk for Blaine County.

Upon joining the school district as an employee, Ms. Zumbrun initially served as a Gym Assistant at Meadowlark Elementary. She later transferred to Chinook High School (CHS). Since August of 2022, she has performed in several roles: Study Hall Adviser, Library Aide, and Special Education Paraprofessional.

About her time at CHS, Ms. Zumbrun says, "I loved visiting with the kids about

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books, and one of my favorite memories is playing the Wordle board game with the students.”

When reflecting on challenges, Ms. Zumbrun shared: “The most challenging thing about advising study hall was trying to help the students with their math homework. I can help with anything else, but unfortunately, I am bad at math. It was a



struggle for both the students and me.”

As she thinks about leaving, Ms. Zumbrun gets a little teary-eyed and claims she will mostly miss the students. During her time teaching and working

with students, Ms. Zumbrun also learned how to “go with the flow” and be adaptable. “This is a great skill to have, and I’m glad I got the opportunity to learn it while working here,” she explained.

Ms. Zumbrun expressed excitement for this next life experience and hopes “to continue to grow personally and well as professionally.” Some future goals she would like to achieve are to expand her plant collection and to get a couple more tarantulas. On a professional note, Ms. Zumbrun is working on a Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies degree, which is an area of concentration in Library Science, and her dream is to become a librarian one day.

As she continues on to the next chapter of her life, *The Beeter Bulletin* Staff wishes her the best.

DC Adventures

By Ryley Hofeldt

Returning from Washington, DC, on March 21, DC Club members brought back many stories to tell. Multiple adventures and tours gave the chaperones and students numerous memories.

History Teacher and Tour Advisor, Mr. Mike Jones reported that his most memorable moments were “having his luggage stolen and then working with the police and getting it back on the second day” and “being happy to say the students were well-prepared for the meeting on Capitol Hill.”

A couple of the juniors, Oliver Standiford and Landen Beck got to meet Roy Williams, “the greatest college basketball coach ever,” as Jones says.

Williams retired April 1, 2021 from his head coaching position for the Kansas Jayhawks after 15 seasons. During his years coaching, he gained publicity with the third most wins by a Division 1 coach and the sixth highest winning percentage in college basketball history. In 2006, Williams was inducted into the College Basketball Hall of Fame and in 2007 the Basketball Hall of Fame.

“Visiting the senators” was Carson Nissen’s most memorable bit, and as an athlete himself, his favorite activities were “the NBA and NHL games.”

On the other hand, Mya Berreth’s memorable moments were “seeing dolphins doing tricks at the aquarium” and meeting Senator Steve Daines, whom she described as “someone cool” that she met.

All in all, the trip produced fun and excitement for the club members and its chaperones who now have life-long memories and stories to share.

Sugarbeeters Take Delivery of New Wrestling Mats

On March 27, the Chinook High School Wrestling Program received new mats. They arrived from Resilite Sports Products located in Northumberland, Pennsylvania, at approximately 2:45 p.m., and the wrestlers gathered to unload them.

The new wrestling mats were carried into the Lloyd Sweet Auditorium where they were rolled out and treated with a chemical preservative. They remained locked away in that space for the next 14 days. During that time, no one was allowed access to the auditorium.

According to Chinook Athletic Director, Paula Molyneaux, these are \$17,000.00 pieces of equipment that must go through a very specific curing process. "The chemicals used on the mats are not healthy for people, and bodies on the mats will interfere with the longevity and function of them until after this curing takes place," she explained.

At the conclusion of this process on April 16, the mats were rolled up by track team volunteers and relocated to their more permanent storage area south of the Floyd Bowen Gymnasium until such time as they will be used for future wrestling events.



Conquering Contests in Science

By Falyn Ceclre

On April 19, Chinook's Science Olympiad teams attended the Montana Science Olympiad Tournament, which was held at Montana State University in Bozeman.

Advised by Mr. Aaron Chriss, students included Olivia Bartlett, Brooke Fetter, Mara Edwards, Kegan Green, Wyatt Olmstead, Lance Pitkanen, Bailey Billmayer, Kiley Huravitch, Oliver Standiford, and Landon Beck.

After qualifying by seniority and the help they contributed with fundraising, students selected the events in which they wanted to compete.

Green and Olmstead competed in Fossils, an event that required them to identify and classify fossils and to demonstrate their knowledge of ancient life. Their tasks were related to interpretation of past ecosystems and environments, adaptations, evolutionary relationships, and the use of fossils in dating and correlating rock units.

Huravitch competed in Microbe Mission, an event which asked her to answer questions, solve problems, and analyze data relating to microbes and microscopes.

As Write It; Do It competitors, Billmayer wrote descriptions of an object and outlined how to build it. From those directions, Edwards attempted to reconstruct the object.

Finally, in Experimental Design Bartlett and Fetter designed and conducted an experiment entirely on-site and then reported their findings.

Going in confident, Chinook's teams took on these exciting and challenging science competitions. Results will be forthcoming.

Junior High Track Team Takes Their Spot at the Starting Line

By Bailey Billmayer

Junior High Track began on April 2. With practices occurring right alongside the high school team, the football field and track are experiencing heavy use.

On April 13, the team traveled to Glasgow for their very first meet of the season. “Junior High Track is a six-week season,” stated Coach Moses Deanon. “We have meets every weekend starting April 13. Our last meet, the district meet, is May 11.”

When sharing what he is most excited about for the track season, Deanon responded, “I am really excited about working with a new coach, working with all the new seventh graders, and seeing the improvements of my eighth graders. Track is like all sports; you only get out what you put into it. I just want to help develop a love for running and competing at a high level.”

Mrs. Alicia Noel, Sixth Grade Teacher and first-time track coach, and Krista Sohn (Coach K) join Deanon on the coaching team. “These two are the best people to work with,” says Deanon. “We are ready to rock and roll.”

When talking about his goals for himself as well as for his team, Deanon explains, “My goals for the team are the same every single year: to compete to be the overall best team during our district meet and at the same time teaching and developing skills for the next generation. As a goal for myself, I want to be able to continue to grow as a track coach. There is always something that I can improve on.”

With a busy six-week schedule ahead, Junior High Track participants prepare for their eventful season, and the coaches get ready to exercise the next generation of track stars.

Team Montana: Wrestler Travels Across the Nation

By Bailey Billmayer

On Thursday, April 4, Bailey Billmayer (sophomore) traveled with Team Montana in order to wrestle in Des Moines, Iowa, for the High School National Duals Tournament. Unfortunately, Hayden Berreth (eighth grader) who was also scheduled to compete, got into an accident during the Montana Open Tournament on March 22-24. He both dislocated and broke his elbow. As a result, Billmayer participated in the high school girls’ tournament in Des Moines as a lone Chinook athlete.

In order to make it to Nationals, wrestlers had to place in the top two of their brackets at the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) State Tournament on March 15-17.

After leaving Sidney at about 6:00 p.m. on April 4, the group’s bus headed towards Glendive, where a couple more buses were supposed to split off with different groups.



Once in Glendive, a girls’ bus, a high school boys’ bus, and a middle school boys’ bus were all supposed to arrive at the meeting spot. However, due to a miscommunication with the bus company, the buses never showed up: “We waited there for over an hour,” stated Billmayer. “It was a mess.” **Continued on page 11**

The head coach gathered all of the wrestlers and some remaining parents together, telling everyone that the buses were going to meet everyone in Dickinson, North Dakota. “They told us we needed to find a ride to that location. Thankfully, there were some very helpful parents that took in some kids. I got lucky; a coach from Fort Benton recognized me, so I didn’t have to jump in with some parents that I didn’t know.”

Once in Dickinson, the buses arrived and the teams finally got to hit the road

The teams arrived in Des Moines at about 11:30 a.m. the next day. With some time to spare until gear-handouts and weigh-ins, the group settled into their hotels, preparing for the next couple days.

“Once we got to weigh-ins, I realized how real the whole thing was,” Billmayer said. “The facility was absolutely huge, too; there were almost 50 mats laid out.”

After getting weighed in and back to the hotel, everyone split off; “Everyone kind of did their own thing the whole time; the coaches didn’t really care, as long as everyone was back before curfew. Kids were running around the city like crazy. When I arrived, my dad surprised me, saying he caught a plane to come watch my team and me, so he took me to go eat that night. We had some spectacular sea food.”

On Saturday morning, middle school boys, high school boys, and middle school girls all started their duals at 8:00. The high school girls didn’t have to wrestle until 2:00 in the afternoon.

The Team Montana High School Girls had five duals on Saturday. After only losing one to the Iowa All-Star Team, the girls battled their way to the Silver Bracket.

“There were three brackets: a gold, silver, and bronze,” Billmayer explained.

“After wrestling in pool play on Saturday with five other teams, only one from every pool was put into the gold bracket. We were only beaten once out of the five duals we wrestled, but the Iowa All-Star Team didn’t lose. We ended up in the silver bracket, which was alright with all of us, considering we all wrestled pretty tough girls that day.”

On Sunday morning, all of the teams except the High School Girls’ Team wrestled at 8:00 once again. Billmayer’s team did not begin wrestling until noon.

With only three duals instead of five on Sunday, the High School Girls went to work. “Sunday was tough; we wrestled some really good teams, and although we didn’t do as well as we wanted to, we all had fun,” remarked Billmayer.

Placing seventh overall, the girls’ team excelled. “I think this was an amazing experience. I met some other amazing wrestlers, got coached by some very knowledgeable people, and traveled across the country to do something that I love doing. I would definitely do it again,” Billmayer concluded.



Bailey Billmayer (far left, front row) joins other Team Montana wrestlers following the Twin Rivers Girls’ Classic Duals held in Des Moines, Iowa.



This year’s fifth graders chose a broad spectrum of characters to research and reenact for their Wax Museum event. BACK ROW: Conner Bowles (Galileo Galilei), Jeramiah Lodgepole (George Washington), Mariah Huravitch (Jeannette Rankin), Pepper Harwood (Sally Ride), Janna Snedigar (Loretta Lynn), Alexis Elias (Dolly Parton), Laurin Davies (Sarah Palin), Hadley Wicks (Jackie Crawford), and Ashtyn DePriest (Kelsea Ballerini). FRONT ROW: Gauge Scovel (Thomas Edison), Teagan Britt (Betsy Ross), Callen Alish (Desmond Doss), Claire Buck (Amelia Earhart), Cassidy Liddle (Angel Reese), Norah Zellmer (Lizzie Arlington), Avie Alish (Lainey Wilson), Ayden Kuhnenn (Patrick Mahomes) Tyson Nissen (Trevor Brazile), Hadley Hofeldt (Amberley Snyder), and Maysen Olson (Annie Oakley).

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Fifth Graders Host Annual Wax Museum

By Ryley Hofeldt

On Thursday, April 11, at 2:15 p.m., the fifth graders at Meadowlark Elementary School hosted their Wax Museum under the direction of Mrs. Lesa MacLeod.

The wax museum is a culmination of a quarter-long project conducted by the fifth graders. These students are required to research a person in history and write a biographical essay based on that person’s life. Additionally, students write a two-three minute speech in which they share important details about the life and accomplishments of the person they are representing. Working for six weeks, the students researched and memorized a speech

about this person who made an impact on the United States.

“The impact could have been political, social, or cultural. Students picked people who were sports figures, musicians, politicians, scientists, inventors, and the like. I allowed them to be dead or alive. I also allowed them to be young. However, in the future, I may require them to be a bit older, as young people are usually harder to research. I’ve found that the more interested the students are in the person, the more engaged they are with the project,” reported MacLeod.

According to MacLeod, the group was well-rehearsed and all performed very well before becoming wax. “Each person walked to the podium, recited a speech about their person, and then walked to their station before turning into wax.”

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The students were staged around the Meadowlark School Gymnasium, starting with the oldest, Galileo Galilei portrayed by Conner Bowles, and ending with the youngest, Angel Reese reenacted by Cassidy Liddle. Mrs. McLeod was “proud of her class and their hard work.”

The wax museum project originated with long-time Sixth Grader Teacher, Mrs. Shirley Mackenzie. After her retirement, the project was discontinued until Mrs. MacLeod and former Fifth Grade Teacher Mrs. Megan Hinebauch brought the project back and added the speech element in 2017.

As described by Mrs. MacLeod, “The speeches are delivered at the beginning of the wax museum and are in first person as the student will be in character as the person for the performance. They then become a wax figure and stand before a door-sized backdrop that they created with pictures, captions, and information about their person. This project covers many cross-curricular standards, including ELA, Reading, and Social Studies standards.”

Working Around the Weather

By RJ Engstrom

Fighting with Mother Nature, the Chinook Track and Field team experienced the cancellation of their first meet in Glasgow due to snow and the postponement of the following Cal Wearly Memorial in Havre because of the cold. Despite the initial postponement to the season, the team dove in headfirst on Wednesday, April 10.

Chinook competed against 33 teams in Havre and fought hard for some “amazing top ten places,” according to Coach Chad Beck.

In the 100-meter dash, junior Carson Nissen scored eighth overall with a time of 11.9 seconds. In the 200-meter dash, things went much the same with Nissen placing

ninth with a time of 24.23 seconds. In the 400-meter dash, the Chinook men secured two top ten placers in Noah Pomeroy (eighth) and Landen Beck (ninth) with times of 57.18 and 57.76 respectively. The women followed in stride with Hallie Neibauer (third) clocking 1:05.86, and Kirbey Hofeldt (tenth) with a time of 1:16.31.

The men finished with a top five contender in the 800-meter dash with Beck, who placed fifth, finishing in 2:15.16. The women followed in line with junior Alexus Seymour placing fourth with a time of 2:43.11.

Next, in the one mile, or 1600-meters, the women had two top five runners in Seymour (second) and Neva Lowe (fourth) finishing in 6:03.85 and 6:04.99. The men also had a top five placer in Isaac Kelly, who ran the race in 5:12.58, placing fourth.

Similarly, in the two mile, 3200-meter race, Lowe placed second logging a time of 13 minutes.

For the throwers, junior Hannah Schoen placed first in the shot put with 33 feet 9.5 inches.



The jumpers had two top five finishers in high jump with freshman Jameson Nordboe jumping six feet to come in second and

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freshman Patrick McKenzie (fifth) jumping five-foot eight inches. Long jumpers saw two top ten finishes with Carson Nissen (fourth) jumping nineteen feet, one and a half inches, and Danny McKenzie (ninth) with eighteen feet, two inches.

Chinook's next meet, the Havre Invitational took place three days later on Saturday, April 13. The meet consisted of eight teams: the Havre Blue Ponies, Malta M-Ettes/Mustangs, Turner Tornadoes, North Star Knights, Box Elder Bears, CJI Hawks, Fort Benton Longhorns, and Chinook Sugarbeeters.

The lower attendance, however, did not detract from the competition, which was just as high. The Beetlers took home two top placers in the 200-meter dash, Cheyenne Weigand (tenth) who ran a 30.91 for the women and Carson Nissen (eighth) who clocked a 24.28 for the men.

The 400-meter race went quite the same with Kirbey Hofeldt (fourth) completing in 1:16.10 and Danny McKenzie (seventh) finishing in just under a minute at 56:72.

The Chinook men's 800-meter team had two top five finishers in Landen Beck (fourth) and Owen Davies (fifth), running 2:08.81 and 2:18.93.

The women, on the other hand, took the top of the podium with Hallie Neibauer placing first with a 2:28.41 and Alexis Seymour placing second at 2:32.52.

The ladies' one-mile crew also took the competition head on with two top five places in Alexis Seymour (third) and Neva Lowe (fourth), scoring 5:51.30 and 6:00.12 respectively. The men had only one top five finisher in Isaac Kelly who placed fourth with a time of 5:19.74.

Senior Jackson Nordboe took on the grueling two-mile race and finished strong with a personal record (PR) of 13:35.71. Sophomore Neva Lowe also accepted the challenge, finishing third with a 13:07.49.

Next up, the boys' hurdle crew sprang into action with three top ten placers in the 110-meter hurdles. Jameson Nordboe captured third with a time of 19.03, Kalled Jaha took sixth with 23.26, and Wyatt Olmstead ranked seventh with a 24.13. In the 300-meter hurdles, Chinook only had one runner, RJ Engstrom who took second with a time of 49.92.

The girls 4x400 relay—led by first leg Seymour, followed by Lowe, Hofeldt, and finished by Neibauer—placed third with a time of 4:43.17.

For the throwers, Hannah Schoen placed first yet again with a 32-foot 6.25-inch shot put toss and placed fourth in the discus with an 84' 6" throw. Quentin Edwards placed fifth in the men's shot put with a PR 39-foot 10-inch hurl. With yet another Chinook PR, Isaiah Gillett threw a 111-foot 1-inch discus lob to place him seventh, just above Quentin Edwards who hit the 110-foot 4-inch mark on the tape. For the javelin, the men had three top ten placers: Oliver Standiford (fourth) with a 137' 7", Gyne Kelly (sixth) with a 126' 1", and Isaiah Gillett with 120' 5". On the girls' side, Hannah Schoen threw a 91' 5" javelin to push her into fourth place.



Jameson Nordboe competes in the 110 hurdles, securing third place by logging a time of 19.03. In a previous event, Nordboe leaped into first place with a 6' 1" personal record in the high jump.

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The Chinook men's high jump brought home both gold and silver with Jameson Nordboe leaping into first with a 6' 1" personal record followed by Oliver Standiford with a 5' 10" jump. The men's long jump team also earned gold with an almost state qualifying jump of 20' 6.75" made by Carson Nissen, as this was his personal best and .25 inches off pre-qualification for the state meet.

"It feels great, but it's on to the school record next," stated Nissen after his jump. Nordboe also suggested that it is "only up from here" as he hopes to improve throughout the season.

The Chinook team's next challenge is the Choteau Twilight meet on Thursday, April 27.

Driving into the Golf Season

By Ryley Hofeldt

Chinook golfers began their season on April 5, at the Marias Valley Golf and Country Club in Shelby. Twelve athletes accompanied Coach Nick Turner, and the Sugarbeeters saw Chyler Standiford place second overall!

Standiford is the first eighth grader to place in Chinook's golfing history, as this is the first season—due to lagging numbers—that junior high athletes were invited to compete on the high school team.

Standiford's response to placing second out of 29 people was: "I did not expect that turnout, but the girl that won first only beat me by two strokes."

Along with placing second at the JV meet, Standiford also placed seventh in the varsity tournament. Mr. Turner agrees: "This is kind of a big deal for an eighth grader."

On the boys' side of competition, the team had first place secured until disaster struck. Most members of the team named

that incident as their most memorable moment: Lance Pitkanen submitted his score card before it was completed accurately, causing him to be disqualified.

As a result of that mishap, Coach Turner added a rule that "all score cards have to be checked by a coach."

Carson Kelly, a sophomore golfer, believes he "did as well as he thought he would." He also wishes "they had provided lunch and that the course was not so muddy."

After that first meet, the golfers competed on April 8, 11, and 12, alternating between JV and varsity. According to Coach Turner, all participants are improving and working hard at the meets.

Next up for the Sugarbeeters is a meet in Glasgow on April 26 and another in Malta on April 27.

Making a Racket on the Courts

By Falyn Ceclre

With practice beginning on March 11, Chinook's tennis team "hopes to do well in Divisionals and State," explains Coach Aaron Chriss. The team began the year strong, earning a record of 46-19 among all their members, and they are still adding to the tally.

At their first meet of the season on April 5 in Great Falls, the team rallied against the CJI hawks and the Three Forks Wolves. Playing their opening matches of the season, number one doubles team Jenna Liddle and Ashlyn Jensen, competed against two Three Forks doubles teams. After losing to the first team 7-9, they were ready for a comeback and beat the other squad 8-6.

In Havre, swinging against Wolf Point, Poplar, and CJI, the Chinook girls got ready to take on some more competition. As Poplar was delayed and Wolf Point was still

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making their way to Havre, the Beeters and the Hawks agreed to begin their matches a little earlier than scheduled. After waiting three hours since their second match, doubles team Gracie Skoyen and Falyn Cecrle played their third match of the day, using teamwork to complete the final set, not only winning 6-3 but finishing off the evening undefeated.

Departing at 5:00 a.m. on April 13, the girls traveled to Conrad, preparing themselves for a long day. With an early arrival, Chinook's team began to warm up. By the time all the teams finally arrived, the Beeters were eager for the first matches of the day. With a 5-0 record for the beginning of the season, number one singles player, Mya Berreth played a Conrad opponent, winning 6-0.

After their matches finished in Conrad, the bus of tennis players traveled to their next destination in Chouteau on the same day, getting ready for yet another set of matches. Having already played a match in Conrad and taking the win with a tie breaker, Rilee Molyneaux stayed strong and powered through yet another difficult match, ending with a tie breaking win.

In Fort Benton on April 19, the Sugarbeeter tennis players warmed up through the cold and snow, but as the day went on and matches began, the weather slowly started to favor the athletes and their rackets. Finishing the day, Ivey Lenz played one of the last matches of the meet against a Fairview contender.

Back again the very next day, the girls boarded the bus around 7:30 a.m. and left for Great Falls. With weather delaying the start of the Saturday meet and the time jumping from its original start time of 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. then to 11:00 a.m., the Beeters waited out the conditions in McDonalds. When the meet finally began, Mekayla Brown had one of the first matches

of the day, playing against a competitor from Three Forks in a tie-breaking loss.

"This season has been challenging for the team. We were supposed to be getting new courts. Unfortunately, they are not finished. We have been having to drive to Havre every day just to be able to practice on an actual court. The weather has also been very inconsistent. One day it's really nice, and the next it's snowing. Even with all these bumps in the road, we have a strong team, and I'm excited to see how the rest of the season goes," explains Senior Tennis Player Mya Berreth.

FFA Takes on State and More

By RJ Engstrom

The Chinook Chapter of the FFA traveled to the Billings Metra for the 94th Annual State Convention on April 2-6. They took 21 participants who partook in nine different Career Development Events.

Top scorers from Chinook in each event are named first and bolded below:

- *Agronomy*: **Bryce Elliot**, Eyan Hofelt, Kirbey Hofelt, and Wacee Simenson
- *Ag Mechanics*: **Brockton Elliot**, Ben Hofeldt, Jacob Metcalf, and Kohen Sullivan
- *Floriculture*: **Aislinn Handy**, Kirbey Hofeldt, Emma Paulson, and Madilyn Gruszic
- *Horse Evaluation*: **Aislinn Handy**, Emma Paulsen, Ashlyn Hofeldt, and Sterling Bemis
- *Livestock Evaluation*: **Wylee Simenson**, Brockton Elliot, Wacee Simenson, and Rangler Skoyen
- *Meats Evaluation*: **Madi Gruszic**, Bryce Elliot, Oliver Standiford, and Landen Keeling

- *Poultry Evaluation:* **Oliver Standiford**, Zoe Scofield, Rangler Skoyen, and Landon Keeling
- *Veterinary Science:* **Ashlyn Hofeldt**, Aislinn Handy, Bella Brown, and Zoe Scofield
- *Sales:* **Brockton Elliot**, Wylee Simenson, Ben Hofeldt, and Kohen Sullivan

Two of the FFA members, Wylee Simenson and Aislinn Handy earned the State Degree for their hard work and dedication to FFA. With fewer than two percent of FFA members earning a State Degree, selection is based on FFA activities, strong supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs), and community service.

In addition, Simenson placed seventh place overall in livestock evaluation and was also a top four finalist for the Montana Star Farmer award; this FFA award is the highest one can obtain and is described as the “cream of the crop among members,” according to FFA Advisor, Mrs. Mitzi Cecrle.

As Chapter Delegates, Falyn Cecrle and Gus Buck attended the delegates meeting voting on three major subjects: eligibility of homeschool members, online learning of shop classes, and not being able to participate in FFA with fewer than a semester of a shop class.

In side competitions, members Oliver Standiford and Kohen Sullivan also got to show off their strength in a pushup competition. They placed among the Top Three Strongest FFA’ers, an accolade they earned by during the Third Session.

Next up and welcoming everyone to attend, the Chapter will be hosting three donkey basketball games on April 28, at 5:00 p.m. in the high school gym. A team of first responders, a team of the school board and faculty, and a team of alumni will go head-to-head with the team of FFA officers.

With concessions available, the gate tickets will be \$10 for adults, \$8 for students in grades 7-12, and \$6 for children in K-6.



Receiving the highest honor a state association can bestow upon its members, Wylee Simenson and Aislinn Handy were recognized as State Degree recipients at the Convention. To achieve the degree, both Simenson and Handy showed excellence with their SAEs in Entrepreneurship/Ownership with an Animal Systems Pathway.



BACK ROW: Landen Keeling, Wylee Simenson, Hall of Chapters entry, Brockton Elliot, Rangler Skoyen, Ben Hofeldt, Oliver Standiford, and Falyn Cecrle. **MIDDLE ROW:** Wacee Simenson, Jacob Metcalf, Eyan Hofeldt, Bryce Elliot, Gus Buck, and Kohen Sullivan. **FRONT ROW:** Zoë Scofield, Bella Brown, Madilyn Gruszie, Sterling Bemis, Aislinn Handy, Kirbey Hofeldt, and Emma Paulsen.



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PRIDE DESIRE EXCELLENCE

****Editor's Note:** The artwork on the following page is an original creation by Teagan Richman. When asked to produce something related to spring, she drew this scene for a potential coloring page.